Unsettled week ahead

4 February 2013 - Unsettled winter conditions will see gale force winds, wintry showers and ice affect parts of the UK.

Scotland looks set to bear the brunt of the wintry weather with frequent snow showers, potentially bringing the risk of disruption across parts of the central belt of Scotland by Tuesday morning. Meanwhile, blizzards are expected in the Highlands.

The Met Office has issued an amber warning for snow across these regions and people are advised to be prepared for the weather and be prepared to change plans.

Scottish Government Transport Minister, Keith Brown said: "Looking at the latest Met Office forecast for frequent and at times heavy snow showers combined with gales force winds will mean a testing journey for many this evening and also, crucially, during rush hour tomorrow.

"We would expect to see difficult conditions emerging on our roads, as well as the potential for disruption to all modes of transport.

"I would again ask the public to stay up to date with live travel information and local radio reports. They can also access the Traffic Scotland website, internet radio bulletins and Variable Message Signs which are being used to provide up to date information as the situation develops."

Strong to gale force winds are also generating large waves of over 10 metres around the coast of northwest Scotland, which could lead to disruption to ferries and to the potential for waves to break over the top of sea defences.

Snow showers and gusty winds will also spread south overnight and tomorrow morning to bring the potential for disruption across parts of northern and eastern England. Persistent snow showers through the morning rush hour may bring up to 15 cm of snow on high ground of the South Pennines and Lincolnshire, with an amber warning in force.

Elsewhere, no one should be surprised to see a mix of wintry showers blown in on strong to gale force winds, with the potential for icy conditions on untreated roads overnight and tomorrow morning.

By thinking ahead we can all be better prepared for severe weather. Throughout the winter, the Met Office works with agencies across the UK to help keep the country safe, well and on the move. The latest forecasts and warnings can be found on the Met Office website, on our mobile apps, and through TV and radio broadcasts on the BBC and ITV.

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